

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /126 W

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P R 141735Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1752

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGSC ETRD MTN

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATION INDAI

REF: A MTN GENEVA 8872, B MTN GENEVA 2866

1. SUBSEQUENT TO JUNE TP MEETING, US DEL (GRAEF, LANDE) MET WITH AMBASSADOR CHADHA TO EXPLAIN US POSITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND TO PROBE DEPTH OF INDIAN RESIDENCE TO CONTRIBUTIONS. NEW ELEMENTS THAT SURFACED DURING THE DISCUSSION WERE: GOI WAS NOTIFYING THE GATT OF DUTY INCREASES ON 135 BOUND ITEMS WHICH ACCORDING TO CHADHA WOULD FURTHER NARROW INDIA'S FLEXIBILITY ON POSSIBLE RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS SINCE INDIA WOULD ADHERE TO ITS GATT COMMITMENTS IN ART. XXVIII NEGOTIATIONS; CHADHA THOUGHT A "HYPOTHETICAL"

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REVIEW OF US TP REQUEST LIST WAS POSSIBLE BUT ONLY IN

THE CONTEXT THAT US WAS FLEXIBLE ON IMPROVING BOTH DEPTH OF CUT AND COVERAGE OF ITS OFFER. MTN DEL NOTED US STATEMENT THAT US REQUESTS AND OFFERS WERE NEGOTIABLE BUT THE US NOT PREPARED TO MAKE UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS IN THE MTN. IT WAS AGREED THAT SANDILYA AND GRAEF WOULD MEET TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE POINTS OF OFFER AND REQUEST.

2. MEETING TOOK PLACE JULY 8. SANDILYA REQUESTED MTN DEL'S VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING US OFFER TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO INDIA. HE STATED THAT THIS KNOWLEDGE WOULD HELP INDIA TO APPROACH THE QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY ON A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BENEFITS THEY WOULD RECEIVE IN THE MTN. THE PRODUCTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO INDIA INCLUDE: SUGAR, TOBACCO, WALNUTS, GARLIS, CAPSICUM PEPPER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS. SANDILYA INDICATED GOI RECOGNIZED BURDEN OF IDENTIFYING MARINE PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO INDIA RESTED WITH IT. WITH RESPECT TO IMPROVEMENTS, MTN DEL RESPONDED USING MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY REPORTED REFS (A) AND (B).

3. MTN DEL NOTED INDIA WAS CLEARLY A BENEFICIARY OF CURRENT US OFFER, BEING PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF 23 PRODUCTS. MTN DEL OBSERVED THAT IMPROVEMENTS BOTH IN TERMS OF DEPTH OF CUT AND PRODUCT COVERAGE WERE POSSIBLE BUT ONLY IN A NEGOTIATING ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH LEADING SUPPLIERS WERE IDENTIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS THEY WOULD MAKE TO THE TP EXERCISE. MTN DEL FURTHER INDICATED THAT TIMING AND STAGING OF US OFFER HAD NOT BEEN SPECIFIED NOR HAD WE SOUGHT SPECIFIC TIMING AND STAGING ON THE ITEMS WE HAD REQUESTED.

4. MTN DEL REQUESTED SANDILYA OFFER HIS VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE INDIAN CONTRIBUTIONS US HAD IDENTIFIED. SANDILYA RESPONDED THAT INDIA HAD ALREADY ELIMINATED BRITISH PREFERENTIAL MARGINS. HE NOTED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE GREAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIFFICULTY IN A POSITIVE RESPONSE ON SHEEP AND GOAT SKINS BUT THAT THE REQUEST ON MICA WAS DIFFICULT IN THAT IT FUNDAMENTALLY CHALLENGED INDIA'S BASIC POLICY OF CANNELIZATION. SANDILYA WAS NOT ABLE TO COMMENT ON INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTS. HE NOTED THAT TARIFF REDUCTIONS WOULD BE DIFFICULT PRIOR TO THE END OF THE DAY, SINCE REVENUE SIDE OF GOI WOULD NOT CONSIDER PIECEMEAL TARIFF CHANGES BUT RATHER DESIRED

TOTAL PICTURE. HE CLOSED BY SAYING HE WOULD BE IN
A BETTER POSITION TO RESPOND TO SPECIFICS IN
SEPTEMBER.

4. MTN DEL RESTATED US POSITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS
AND INDICATED THAT FURTHER PROGRESS IN TP NEGOTIATIONS
DEPENDENT ON SUBSTANTIVE REACTION BY GOI TO US
PROPOSALS.CULBERT

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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